

MINUTES

LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY TASK FORCE MEETING

Marriott Hotel
Monterey, CA
February 21, 2008

Attendees:

Robert Leavitt	Laurie Gibson	Isabelle Jenniches
Robert Dowell	Camron King	Dennis Bray
Jim Rains	Rick Kreutzer	Dennis Kinepp
William Roltsch	Kevin O'Day	Mary Oliva
John Connell	Don Owen	Susan Hootkins
Bob Wynn	Stephen Reed	Bonny Hawley
Karen Zirkle	Jay Schreider	Eric Lauritzen
Jay Van Rein	Thomas Smith	Merton Price
Josilyn Hendricks	Sheri Lee Smith	Helene Wright
Deborra Murphy-Harris	Zea Sonnabend	David Dilworth
Charmaine Canlas	Hadi Tabbara	Robert Roach
David Pegos	Patti TenBrook	Stella Borucki (via phone)
Helene Wright	Rayne Thompson	
Ted Batkin	Teresa Thorne	
Sandy Brown	Greg Van Wassenhove	
Dennis Davie	Lee Carter	
Susan Ellis	Susan Monheit	
Robert Falconer	Jeff Fisher	

INTRODUCTIONS

Executive Secretary Dr. Robert Leavitt welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. Public member Mr. David Dilworth noted that the LBAM Environmental Advisory Task Force (EATF) meetings should be open for public comments. The EATF members then made self-introductions.

Three questions submitted via e-mail from EATF member Laurie Gibson were then addressed:

Question 1: *There are still concerns in the public about the potential temporal association between spraying dates and the dead birds. Can you provide the public and committee with actual findings of test data? When?*

Ms. Stella Borucki from the Department of Fish and Game stated that she is still waiting for final results from their analytical lab, but records of the birds received point to red tide rather than a pesticide application. The constituents of Checkmate® were tested against the sticky substance found on the birds, and there was no relation found. There was a relation found with proteins from algae. A final report will be sent out in a couple of weeks and will be posted on the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) website.

Question 2: *The CDFA has continually reported that the aerial spray likely did not cause all of the adverse reactions people have reported, but the DPR and OEHHA Consensus Statement said such symptoms were plausible. How can CDFA more sincerely address public concerns that in fact are real, and more importantly, protect the public from future harm?*

Dr. Richard Kreutzer from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) mentioned that he will be working with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) and other local health departments to ensure a system is put together to address various needs and OEHHA will assist with reviewing health reports. Training will be provided with local health care providers and departments, followed with greater outreach to improve public awareness.

Question 3: *There are concerns regarding the size of the microcapsules. No respiratory studies were performed because the micron size was reported to be 25 micron and above and seemingly was not needed. Now that the UC Davis study showed the micron size to potentially be 10 micron, what assurity can you give the public that this or any aerial spray will be safe?*

Due to the absence of an expert assigned to answer this question, a response has not been addressed at this time.

LBAM BIOCONTROL UPDATE

Mr. William Roltsch provided an overview of biological control of the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM), concentrating on augmentation using egg parasitoids. The intent of augmentation is to utilize large numbers of *Trichogramma* to destroy localized, high-density populations of LBAM. Mr. Roltsch explained the life stages of LBAM. He then discussed and showed various photos taken from the LBAM egg parasitism study at the laboratory. Mr. Roltsch concluded that after reviewing the results of the egg parasitism study, *Trichogramma* do attack LBAM eggs.

ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY UPDATE

Dr. Jim Warren made a presentation on the environmental risk of acetate-based lepidopteron pheromones. He explained the evaluation procedure for ecological risk assessment, stating that risk is a function of toxicity and exposure. Dr. Warren then discussed the issue regarding surfactant use and Checkmate®, which was supposedly linked to reported deaths of birds from the aerial spray applications. No surfactants are in the formulated material, and none were used in mixing for the application per label instructions. According to Dr. Warren, a report from the California Department of Fish and Game concluded there was no link between the LBAM applications and the reported bird die-offs. Mr. Warren then discussed pheromone exposure and toxicity to terrestrial non-target organisms and aquatic organisms. By illustrating various unrealistic exposure scenarios and available toxicity data that the pheromone poses, Dr. Warren acknowledged that the formulated pheromone poses negligible oral and inhalation risk to non-target birds and mammals. In addition, the formulated pheromone poses negligible risk to fish and aquatic invertebrates, which have negligible opportunity for exposure due to the water insoluble nature of the pheromone.

RESEARCH CONFERENCE UPDATE

Dr. Robert Dowell stated that he is still in discussion with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and contacts from Australia to determine when and where the LBAM Research Conference will be held. Information will be provided as soon as a final decision has been made.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Dr. Leavitt moved that the LBAM EATF members approve the minutes of the January 8, 2008, meeting with corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

2008 LBAM PROGRAM UPDATE

Dr. Dowell presented an overview of the scoping sessions and acknowledged the locations and dates of the upcoming public scoping sessions for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). He stated that the purpose of these meetings is to provide public guidance and input on the issue. Dr. Dowell then briefly mentioned the rules of the scoping meetings, the project's history, program accomplishments in 2007, considerations for alternative treatments, the use of twist ties with pheromones and the environmental review process. Public comments and input will be accepted until March 20, 2008. A drafted EIR is expected to be available and ready for public comment by Fall 2008.

CEQA SCOPING

Mr. Jim Rains asked the EATF members to specify what information and/or questions they would like to have addressed in the EIR. Some items include the following:

- If spraying or pesticides will be used for treatment, provide notification to all residents in those areas affected.
- Show the inerts in the formulation in the EIR.
- Provide other considerations for eradication methods.
- Research the economic and environmental impact if there were no treatment.
- Have the EIR include a study on the effects to populations of amphibians and insect predatory species.
- Show the potential of damage, both environmentally and economically.
- Show the affect on native conifers such as redwoods and pines.
- Show the economic impact on nurseries.

NOTE: *A transcript from this portion of the meeting is available on a separate document.*

NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next LBAM EATF meeting is scheduled for early June 2008 in the San Francisco vicinity. Meeting hours and location will be determined at a later time.